

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 IGA-02 AID-20 EB-11 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01

/071 W

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R 301215 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSDEF WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3788

DIVENGR USAEDM LEGHORN IT // MDDVE//

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1765

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJ: MODA REQUEST FOR MILITARY VEHICLES

SUMMARY: MODA PRINCE SULTAN UNHAPPY WITH DOD PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE 25 PERCENT OF VEHICLES FOR FIVE- YEAR VEHICLE PURCHASE PROGRAM IN REBUILT RATHER THAN NEW CONDITION. SULTAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE THREATENED TO CANCEL ENTIRE PURCHASE PROGRAM (\$59 MILLION) IF HE CANNOT GET ALL NEW VEHICLES FROM US SOURCES, ORDERING INSTEAD FROM CHRYSLER- BRAZIL. EMBASSY REQUESTS DOD INVESTIGATE SUPPLYING NEW VEHICLES FROM WAR RESERVE STOCKS OR OFFER OTHER SUGGESTION. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN REQUESTING THAT ACTION BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT ALL VEHICLES WHICH MODA IS PURCHASING UNDER ITS FIVE- YEAR VEHICLE PURCHASE PLAN BE NEW VEHICLES, NOT REBUILT ONES. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT OF APPROXIMATELY 6,233 VEHICLES IT IS NOW PROPOSED TO SUPPLY 1642 AS REBUILT VEHICLES.) ORDANCE CORPS' S GENERAL DAFTADAR TELLS COE DISTRICT ENGINEER DURHAM THAT SULTAN WILL CANCEL ENTIRE PURCHASE PROGRAM, WHICH TOTALS SOME FIFTY- NINE MILLION DOLLARS, IF HE CANNOT GET ALL NEW VEHICLES FROM US SOURCES, AND WILL INSTEAD BUY ALL VEHICLES NEW FROM CHRYSLER- BRAZIL.

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2. VEHICLES PROPOSED TO BE SUPPLIED IN REBUILT CONDITON ARE AS FOLLOWS, QUANTITIES IN PARENTHESES:
TRUCK 3/4 TON M37 B1 (1055) (SAUDIS REQUESTED TRUCK 1-1/4 TON, M715, BUT THIS APPARENTLY AVAILABLE NEITHER NEW NOR REBUILT; M37 B1 PROPOSED TO MODA AS ALTERNATE.)

AMBULANCE 3/4 TON M43 B1 (3)(PROPOSED ALTERNATE TO REQUESTED 1-1/4 TON M725.)

TRUCK, 5 TON, M54 A2 (344)

TRUCK, 5 TON, M61 (38)

TRUCK, TELEPHONE MAINTENANCE, 2-1/2 TON, U17 A/ MTQ (17)

TRUCKER WRECKER, 5 TON, M543 A1 (150)

3. WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE SERIOUSNESS OF SULTAN' S THREAT T GO ELSEWHERE FOR ENTIRE PURCHASE PROGRAM, NOR LIKELIHOOD THAT CHRYSLER- BRAZIL OR ANY OTHER MANUFACTURER COULD SUPPLY ALL MODA NEEDS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT SULTAN' S RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT REBUILT VEHICLES STEMS FROM A BELIEF THAT THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO PAWN OFF SECOND- HAND EQUIPMENT NO LONGER NEED BY USG. BEFORE REPLYING TO SULTAN, IF NECESSARY, WITH SUMMARY REHASH OF ARGUMENTS ALREADY PRESENTED TO MODA BY COE RIYADH, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE OURSELVES THAT ALL POSSIBLE ALTERNATE US SOURCES OF SUPPLY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY THAT DESIRED VEHICLES MIGHT BE RELEASED FROM US WAR RESERVE STOCKS. REQUEST DOD INVESTIGATE THIS POSSIBILITY AND RESPOND WITH ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS WHICH MIGHT HELP OVERCOME SULTAN' S DISPLEASURE.

4. SINCE NUMBER OF PRESENT LETTERS OF OFFER HAVE 1 JUNE SUSPENSION DATE, URGE REPLY ASAP TO ALLOW MODA SUFFICIENT TIME TO ACCEPT OFFERS IN EVENTWE ARE ABLE TO PERSUADE THEM TO DO SO. WE DOUBT ANY ACTION WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL SULTAN RECEIVES REPLY FROM AMBASSADOR ON THIS ISSUE.
THACHER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JIDDA01765
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730452/aaaaixsk.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980203
Subject: MODA REQUEST FOR MILITARY VEHICLES
TAGS: MASS, SA
To: DIVENGR USAEDM LEGHORN IT // MDDVE//
PM
SECSDEF WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005